

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TRIPOL 01224 290635Z

14

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 042092

P 281515Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2644

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 1224

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, PFOR, ENRG

SUBJECT: OCCIDENTAL-LIBYA DISPUTE

REF: TRIPOLI 1193 AND 1186

1. WHEN CHARGE MET MFA DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY TURAYKI OCT 21, IT WAS AGREED IT WOULD BE A HELPFUL STEP IF LIBYAN OFFICIALS AND CONSUL DANGA VISITED OXY'S DESERT PUMPING STATION TOGETHER TO TALK TO FIELD EMPLOYEES. TRIP TOOK PLACE OCT 27, AND PROVED TO BE WORTHWHILE. ACCOMPANYING DANGA WERE: ALI FAYTURI, KNOWLEDGEABLE SENIOR ADVISER OF PETROLEUM MINISTER: ABDUL HAMID MUNTASSIR, OXY PERSONNEL OFFICIAL; AND ABDULLAH AL-MAGRAHI, MFA PETROLEUM AFFAIRS OFFICIAL.

2. GROUP HAD OPEN MEETING WITH ALL FOREIGN FIELD EMPLOYEES AND SMALLER SESSIONS WITH FIELD SUPERVISERS. DANGA REITERATED THAT WE DISAPPROVE OF RESTRICTIVE ASPECTS OF PRESENT ROTATION PROCEDURE, AND ARE CONTINUING TO PRESS FOR RESUMPTION OF NORMAL PROCESSING OF OXY EMPLOYEES DEPARTING AND RETURNING TO LIBYA. HE SAID EMBASSY HAD ARRANGED VISIT TO PUMPING STATION SO MEN IN THE FIELD COULD PRESENT THEIR VIEWS AND QUESTIONS DIRECTLY TO LIBYAN OFFICIALS AS WELL AS TO HIMSELF. THEREAFTER MOST OF OF EXCHANGES WERE BETWEEN EMPLOYEES AND LIBYAN OFFICIALS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TRIPOL 01224 290635Z

3. DURING LENGTHY TALKS FOLLOWING POINTS WERE MADE BY FIELD WORKERS:

A) FIELD EMPLOYEES ARE SHOWING GOOD FAITH BY RETURNING FROM OUT OF COUNTRY LEAVES, AND LARG SHOULD RECIPROCIATE BY LIFTING ALL RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVEL BY EXPATRIATES IN THE FIELD. THE DISPUTE IS BETWEEN OXY AND LARG, SO WHY ARE FIELD WORKERS HELD AS HOSTAGES?

B) BECAUSE OF HANDSOME SEVERANCE PAYMENTS TO BE GIVEN TO WORKERS BY OXY IN EVENT OF NATIONALIZATION, THEY WILL CONTINUE TO RETURN FROM FIELD BREAK. OTHERWISE THEY WOULD NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR THESE BENEFITS IF THEY RESIGN OUTSIDE OF LIBYA.

C) ONE FOR ONE ROTATION IS NOT ACCEPTABLE, EITHER IN PRINCIPLE OR IN PRACTICE, ESPECIALLY SINCE THERE WAS A SURPLUS OF EXPATRIATES IN FIELD AT TIME BAN IMPOSED.

D) IF TRAVEL BAN IS LIFTED WITHIN A WEEK, 85 PERCENT OR MORE OF FIELD WORKERS WILLING TO STAY ON, EITHER WITH OXY OR WITH NEW NATIONALIZED FIRM. HOWEVER, IF BAN CONTINUES MEN WILL START RESIGNING AND REPLACEMENTS WILL BE DIFFICULT TO HIRE.

4. FAYTURI STRESSED THAT RESTRICTIONS WERE NOT DIRCETED AGAINST INDIVIDUALS, BUT WERE IMPLEMENTED SIMPLY TO INSURE PROPER OPERATION OF THE FIELDS, HE CLAIMED THAT THE MAIN REASON FOR THE RESTRICTIONS WAS THE OXY LOS ANGELES INSTRUCTION TO WITHDRAW ALL OXY EMPLOYEES FROM LIBYA. ONCE THAT THREAT SUBSIDES, LARG COULD RELAX AND EVENTUALLY RESUME NORMAL PROCEDURES. FAYTURI ASSURED THE MEN HE WOULD MAKE A FULL REPORT TO PETROLEUM MINISTER MABRUK, AND PROMISED THAT THERE WOULD BE AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE ONE FOR ONE PROCEDURE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

5. OXY OFFICIAL MUNTASSIR SAID THAT NEXT WEEK AFTER THE TRIAL RUN OF ONE FOR ONE ROTATION, HE WOULD ASK PETROLEUM AND INTERIOR MINISTERIES TO RELAX RESTIRCTIONS OR LIFT THEM ENTIRELY. HE WOULD STRESS THAT ONE FOR ONE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TRIPOL 01224 290635Z

PROCEDURE IS NOT A WORKABLE LONG TERM SOLUTION AND MUST BE MODIFIED.

6. CONSUL DANGA EXPLAINED TO FEW BRITISH AT PUMPING STATION THAT HMG'S CONSUL WAS NOT IN TRIPOLI WHEN TRIP WAS ARRANGED. OTHERWISE HE WOULD HAVE BEEN WITH VISITING GROUP.

7. LATEST COMPANY FIGURES INDICATE THAT 78 FIELD WORKERS
HAVE RETURNED SINCE OCT 1. AS OF OCT 27, 56 HAVE BEEN
ALLOWED TO LEAVE, AND COMPANY EXPECTS NO PROBLEM WITH
ADDITIONAL LIST BEING PROCESSED ON OCT 27.
STEIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, DISPUTES, TRAVEL CONTROLS, FOREIGN WORKERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TRIPOL01224
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750374-0485
From: TRIPOLI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751016/aaaaaods.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 TRIPOLI 1193
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <10 NOV 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OCCIDENTAL-LIBYA DISPUTE
TAGS: CASC, PFOR, ENRG, LY, OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM CORPORATION
To: STATE LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006